

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for controlling a wrapping machine for printed products comprising the steps of:

~~determining a size of an incoming gap~~ sensing a number of missing products in a printed product stream, the number of missing products defining an incoming gap, a size of the incoming gap being defined as the number of missing products; and

~~controlling a speed of the wrapping machine when as a function of the size of the incoming gap is sensed,~~ the controlling step including intentionally leaving, in the printed product stream in the ~~wrapper~~ wrapping machine, at least a single product gap corresponding to the incoming gap;

operating the wrapping machine while the single product gap passes through the wrapper machine so as to create at least one empty bag.

Claim 2 (original): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the size of the incoming gap exceeds a predetermined size, the controlling step includes reducing the size of the incoming gap.

Claim 3 (original): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein if the size of the incoming gap is a single product, the speed of the wrapping machine remains the same and a single empty bag is produced.

Claim 4 (original): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein if the size of the incoming gap is two products and the wrapping machine is controlled to create a single empty bag in response to an incoming gap, the wrapping machine is decelerated to an intermediate speed and then accelerated to the incoming product stream speed.

Claim 5 (original): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein if the size of the incoming gap is three products or more and the wrapping machine is controlled to create one empty bag in

response to an incoming gap, the wrapping machine is decelerated to a stop in more than one pin conveyor cycle.

Claim 6 (original): The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the wrapping machine is accelerated to the incoming product stream speed in more than one pin conveyor cycle.

Claim 7 (original): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the wrapping machine creates one empty bag corresponding to the incoming gap.

Claim 8 (original): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the wrapping machine creates two or more empty bags corresponding to the incoming gap.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method for controlling a wrapping machine for printed products comprising the steps of:

~~determining~~ sensing a number of missing products a size of an incoming gap in a printed product stream having a first speed, the number of missing products defining a size of an incoming gap; and

controlling a speed of the wrapping machine when ~~as a function of the size of the incoming gap~~ is sensed, the controlling step including in certain modes decelerating the wrapping machine from the first speed over more than a full printed product stream cycle so as to reduce the size of the incoming gap; and

operating the wrapping machine while the reduced-size incoming gap passes through the wrapping machine so that at least one empty bag is created.

Claim 10 (original): The method as recited in claim 9 further comprising accelerating the wrapping machine to the first speed.

Claim 11 (original): The method as recited in claim 9 wherein the size of the incoming gap is reduced in the wrapping machine to the size of exactly one printed product.

Claim 12 (original): The method as recited in claim 9 wherein the wrapping machine is

decelerated to a full stop when the size of the incoming gap is three printed products or more.

Claim 13 (original): The method as recited in claim 9 wherein the wrapping machine is decelerated to a certain speed when the size of the gap is two printed products.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method for controlling a wrapping machine for printed products comprising the steps of:

~~determining a size of an incoming gap~~ sensing a number of missing products in a printed product stream, the number of missing products defining an incoming gap, a size of the incoming gap being defined as the number of missing products; and

controlling the speed of the wrapping machine when the incoming gap is sensed ~~as a function of the size of the incoming gap~~ in certain modes so as to reduce the incoming gap in the wrapping machine; and

operating the wrapping machine to create ~~while still creating~~ at least one empty bag in the wrapping machine.

Claims 15 to 17 (canceled).